

## Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-04

AGR-05 IO-11 /111 W

----- 088122

R 070700Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8229

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 1269

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CM, LY

SUBJECT: CAMEROON-LIBYAN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

REF: A. 75 YAOUNDE 4130 B. YAOUNDE A-3, JAN 20, 1976

C. YAOUNDE A-104, NOV 17, 1795

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO FINAL COMMUNIQUE, FIRST MEETING OF CAMEROONIAN-LIBYAN MIXED COMMISSION MARCH 15-21 LED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT INVESTMENT BANK, AGREEMENT ON TATUTES FOR AGRICULTURAL/LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION COMPANY, AND LOAN TO HELP FINANCE PLANNED NEW HOSPITAL IN YAOUNDE. VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATE BARGAINING WAS VERY TOUGH, AGREEMENTS NOT RPT NOT YET SET IN CONCRETE, AND CAMEROONIAN SIDE HARDLY DELIGHTED BY RESULTS. GURC STILL LACKS, FOR PRESENT AT LEASE, ADEQUATELY IMPRESSIVE RESULTS TO PUT TO REST GRIPING THAT UNREMITTING SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE HAS FAILED TO PAY APPROPRIATE DIVIDENDS.

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2. FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERIAL MIXED COMMISSION ESTABLISHED AS RESULT OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S VISIT TO LIBYA LAST OCTOBER TOOK PLACE IN YAOUNDE MARCH 15-21. NINE-MEMBER LIBYAN DELEGATION LED BY AHMED EL ATRASCH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OF STATE FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS AT FONMIN. GURC DELEGATION  
LED BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ADAOU NDAM NJOYA. LIBYANS  
DEPARTED CAMEROON FOR EQUATORIAL GUINEA WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY  
NEXT STOP ON THEIR VISIT TO DOZEN COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO FINAL COMMUNIQUE, GURC AND LIBYA  
SIGNED AGREEMENTS FOR (A) LIBYAN LOAN TO PROVIDE PARTIAL  
FINANCING OF CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GENERAL HOSPITAL IN  
YAOUNDE AND (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMEROONIAN-LIBYAN BANK FOR  
INVESTMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE. THEY ALSO INITIATED STATUTES  
FOR CAMEROONIAN-LIBYAN COOPERATION FOR AGRICULTURAL AND  
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, AND STUDIED COOPERATION IN OTHER  
DOMAINS.

4. WHILE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATED ALL SWEETNESS AND  
LIGHT DURING THE MEETING, OTHER SOURCES INDICATED THAT  
BARGAINING WAS LONG AND HARD, AND GURC DID NOT GET AS MUCH  
AS IT WANTED. ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE, VICE  
MINISTER NDAM NJOYA STATED THAT HE WOULD MUCH RATHER DEAL WITH  
WEST EUROPEANS, AND THAT THE MEETING HAD ALMOST BROKEN UP  
ON FINAL EVENING BUT DIFFERENCES WERE SUBMERGED AND  
AGREEMENTS SIGNED WHERE POSSIBLE. LOW LEVEL OF LIBYAN  
ASSISTANCE AND HARD BARGAINING WERE INDICATED CAUSES.  
LIBYAN LOAN WAS REPORTED TO CARRY STIFFER TERMS THAN CONCESSIONAL  
FUNDS FROM INTERNATIONAL DONORS.

5. WHILE NO DETAILS OF AGREEMENTS WERE RELEASED, EMBASSY  
HAS LEARNED THAT LIBYANS AGREED TO FINANCE ONLY 15 PER CENT  
OF HOSPITAL COST. THIS PROJECT IS NOT CONSIDERED VIABLE  
BY REGULAR AID DONORS, AND GURC PROBABLY RELYING ON LIBYANS  
WITH OTHER POLITICAL-ORIENTED DONORS TO PROVIDE FUNDING.  
SINCE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF HOSPITAL IS \$55 MILLION, LIBYAN  
CONTRIBUTION ABOUT \$8 MILLION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS,  
AMOUNT PROVIDED FOR HOSPITAL ROUGHLY EQUALS LIBYAN CONTRIBU-  
TION TO CORPORATION FOR AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.  
AT LEAST ONE OF PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION  
FOR FUNDING BY EITHER INVESTMENT BANK OR AGRICULTURAL/  
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LIVESTOCK CORPORATION IS CAMSUCO SUGAR PROJECT FOR WHICH  
GURC HAS BEEN SEEKING FINAL AMOUNT NEEDED FOR FINANCING,  
ABOUT \$22 MILLION. KNOWLEDGEABLE GURC OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF,  
HOWEVER, THAT ACCORDS SIGNED BY LIBYANS WERE ONLY STATEMENTS  
OF INTENT AND THAT NO SPECIFIED AMOUNTS OR TERMS HAD BEEN  
AGREED UPON.

6. COMMENT: SINCE ITS BREAD WITH ISRAEL IN OCTOBER 1973,  
GURC HAS ENDORSED ARAB CAUSE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND  
ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH NUMBER OF ARAB COUNTRIES.  
PRESIDENT AHIDJO HAS REPEATEDLY PROCLAIMED AT HOME  
THAT SUPPORT FOR ARABS WAS PRINCIPLED MATTER OF JUSTICE

AND NOT SELLOUT FOR ARAB AID. THIS KIND OF DEFENSIVE LINE  
IS IN ANSWER TO WIDESPREAD CRITICISM AMONG CAMEROONIANS,  
WHO BEAR LITTLE LOVE FOR ARABS, THAT "SELFISH" ARABS HAVE  
FAILED ADEQUATELY TO REWARD THEIR BLACK AFRICAN SUPPORTERS.  
SOME ARAB AID TO CAMEROON HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING - \$5.4 MILLION  
IN LOANS TO COMPENSATE FOR PETROLEUM PRICE  
INCREASES, A \$10 MILLION LOAN APPROVED FOR DOUALA PORT  
IMPROVEMENT, WITH POSSIBILITIES FOR OTHER AID STILL  
APPARENTLY IN THE MILL. NEW LIBYAN CONNECTION SEEMED TO  
OFFER BIGGEST HOPE FOR SOMETHING MORE NOTABLE. THIS HOPE  
PRESUMABLY REMAINS, BUT OBTAINING CONCRETE RESULTS HAS PROVEN  
MORE ELUSIVE THAN GURC PROBABLY EXPECTED.  
SPIRO

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